WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Investment/Expenditure on Agricultural Research

4564. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the average investment/expenditure on agricultural research in the country;

(b) whether Government have made any analysis of the existing system of research to know the achievement of its objective to increase food production, matching the population growth;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps contemplated by Government to revamp the national agricultural research system to meet the food production challenge, in relation to population growth?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) In so far ss the Department of Agricultural Research and Education and Indian Council of Agricultural Research is concerned, the average investment/expenditure on agricultural research as per the Revised Estimate (Plan and Non-Plan) for the year 2000-2001 is Rs. 1362.33 crore and the Budget Estimate (Plan and Non-Plan) for the year 2001-2002 is Rs. 1389.50 crore.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) India has witnessed spectacular advances in the production and productivity of different crops including foodgrains, oilseeds and commercial crops In foodgrains, production has increased from 50.82 million tonnes in 1950-51 to an all time high of 208.88 million tonnes in 1999-2000. It is significant that area under food crops has remained about 125 million ha. for the last 25 years. The increase in crop production thus has been achieved largely through increase in productivity. The productivity from 1950-51 to 1999-2000 increased from 522 kg/ha to 1637 kg/ha. in foodgrains; 481 kg/ha. to 855 kg/ ha. in oilseeds and 33422 kg/ha. to 71989 kg/ha. in sugarcane. The

food grain production in the country over the period 1949-50 has maintained an impressive compound growth rate of 2.69% as compared to population growth rate of 2.1 percent. This has enabled the chronically food deficit country to become self efficient besides having about 33 million tonnes in the buffer stock and 4 to 5 million tonnes of cereals in excess of its domestic demand for export.

(d) A long term perspective visionary approach document has been developed by the ICAR to secure sustainable food production and also to meet the future demand for food. The document presents the outlook towards 2020 and provides framework for a revised mandate, new priorities, new programmes and participatory modes of action and organisational adjustments for effectively addressing the challenges and opportunities before us and for ushering in an ever green revolution. The following paradigm shift has been chalked out to reform and revamp the National Agricultural Research System:

i. Consolidation and right sizing of research infrastructure;

ii. Research prioritisation through bottom-up and participatory mode;

iii. Introduction of project based budgeting;

iv. Merit linked, performance oriented incentives and rewards;

v. Human resource capacity building through national international exchanges and netwoking;

vi. Building partnership with private sector and voluntary sector;

vii. Augmenting research-extension-farmer linkages;

viii. Decentralised administration.